

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture Minutes
April 5, 2006
Conference Call

Members Present: Helen Jones, President
Lee Otto
David Largent
Jim Mickelson
David Graham
Gene Hardy
John Etchepare, Director, WY Dept. of Agriculture
Jack Corson
Spencer Ellis, Vice President
Leif Udem
Governor Freudenthal's Office
Frank Galey, Dean, UW College of Agriculture

Members Absent: Emily Horton

WDA Staff Present: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Jim Schwartz
Slade Franklin

Guests: Rod Litzel, Johnson County Weed & Pest Supervisor
Skip Lewis, Converse County Weed & Pest Supervisor

Helen asked Slade Franklin to have both Skip and Rod discuss the pros and cons of the Mountain Pine Beetle from the Designated List. Skip was unable to talk at the hearing in February, but did submit a letter asking the beetle to not be taken off the list. He indicated most of their problems are in the Esterbrook area. They presently cost-share with landowners and when they have depleted the allocated funding for the program, the landowners understand and seem to be very satisfied with that. Gene asked for clarification on the cost-share for each county. Some do have a cost-share program and others do not. Rod Litzel said the money spent on the Mountain Pine Beetle only helps the situation and at the present is not reducing its presence. Jim Schwartz said it appears we are giving up on the beetle and therefore not continuing to look at additional technology to control the species. Rod Litzel repeated what Les Cook had previously spoken about. That being the Mountain Pine Beetle was not the only bark beetle to be a problem. Several people spoke of adding all bark beetles to the designated list. Several members spoke in favor of keeping it on the list. To help keep it on the radar as well as maintain its spread. The problem requires a management system to include several items including forest thinning. John Etchepare spoke of an article he read recently of the problems with some bio-control using a fly whose larva kills the plant. He will try and find the article and get copies to members, as nobody had heard of it. Helen said she had read the blue stain fungus is what eventually kills the trees and not the beetle. Rod Litzel agreed, saying the blue stain really makes the lumber more desirable and wondered why it was being removed from the list.

Gene Hardy asked John for an update from the meeting held in Ft. Collins with the wool and sheep folks. He said they should have the final ruling by the end of the week and it sounds like it will be favorable.

Gene Hardy made a motion to approve the distribution of an equal amount to the Sheridan

and Meeteetse Conservation Districts of the amount of water quality funding (\$2,738.50) as approved by the Wyoming Association of Conservation District board. Seconded by Jim Mickelson. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Gene made a motion to approve the amendment of the 2004-2006 biennium funding amendment. Discussion – several members had questions on the amount of the amended request. Jim Mickelson made a motion to table the request until the April 10 meeting. Seconded by Jack Corson. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

The members had asked Jim Schwartz to prepare some question for discussion with Mike Besson at the April 10 meeting. They were prepared and mailed and emailed to members March 31. The agreed to the questions and sending them to Mike for his review and preparation.

Helen asked Muff to send each member via email, the letter of support prepared for the energy companies. She will also have some ready for handout at the April 10 meeting.

Helen asked if anyone was planning on attending the Bookmark Award Ceremony on May 2. None noted at this time.

She also asked if everyone had received the letter from Bryce Reece regarding the naming of the pavilion at State Fair in honor of Kristy Barkhurst's late daughter. Before this goes any further it was decided to check into the process of naming state buildings.

John noted the Joint Ag Committee meeting April 19 and 20 in Torrington. Muff will get the information to the members.

Spencer is hearing several brand inspectors are not happy with having to collect more money. He has also heard some are indicating they will quit if they have to collect additional fees.

There being no additional business. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Jones, President

Date

Attachment:
Allocation of unused water quality and base funds